Wagons for Salt Industry

3459. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the annual demand and actual availability of salt wagons for the salt industry in Gujarat during 1990-91 1991-92 and 1992-93 so far; and

(b) what steps are being taken to augment the wagon availability for salt industry in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The position of loading on the Broad Gauge is as follows:

Year	Total Indents	Loading
1990-91	81568	67589
1991-92	100559	67658
1992-93 (April to November)	67590	53767

(b) The supply of wagons has been stepped up over the years. In the current year wagon supplies are considerably higher and the demands of programmed salt traffic are being met with currently.

Withdrawal of orders for the Closures of Loco Wagon Sheds

3460. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations regarding the withdrawal of orders for the closures of loco wagon sheds/steam engine sheds etc. in Siliguri Railway Junction;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to withdraw this order; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Steam traction is an uneconomical mode of traction as compared to diesel/electric traction. Railways have, therefore, planned to replace steam locomotives gradually by the year 2000. Consequently, all steam sheds shall also be closed in a phased manner. Closure of steam shed at Siliguri after dieselisation of train services in the area is a part of this process.

Retention of the sick line facilities for repair of wagons is not justified on account of inadequate arisings.

Granting of Permission to sell Newspapers etc. to Sarvodaya Books Stall

3461. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from M/s Sarva Seva Sangh's Prakashan for granting permission to sell newspapers, magazines, books and other periodicals on each of the Sarvodaya books stalls like A.H. Wheeler and Company;

(b) if so, what action has been taken on those representations date-wise; and

(c) what are the reasons for not granting permission to M/s Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan for the sale of newspapers and periodicals etc. including those literary materials which is being sold by M/s A.H. Wheeler and Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As a special dispensation and without following the laid down procedure for allotment of bookstall licences, permission is granted, as a special case, to certain philanthropic and non-profit making organisations to set up and operate bookstalls on selected stations for sale of their own, similar and Government of India publications.